



LIVE THEATRE IS BACK!

Details at www.stablestheatre.co.uk and find us on Facebook 

The Bourne, Hastings TN34 3BD; info@stablestheatre.co.uk

Box office: 01424 423221 (10:30 to 1:00 except Sunday)

Chair of Stables Council: Neil Sellman

MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER, JUNE 2021

Welcome to the first of a renewed newsletter, which we hope to produce every three months or so. If there is anything that you would like to see included in future editions do please let me know via the e-mail address above. *Paul Buswell*

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, NEIL SELLMAN

By the time you read this the Stables will hopefully be open and entertaining audiences with live theatre.

During this past year we have been able to welcome a number of new and exciting artists to the Stables. Under social distancing guidelines and COVID restrictions we have: hosted rehearsals, workshops, R&D development projects; made films and music videos, securing an income stream for the theatre. We are very much hoping that these collaborations will be ongoing for the theatre.

We have also had time to look at the way the theatre operates - the management, marketing and membership - making some new and necessary changes that will secure the life of the stables through its next 60 years and make the theatre a welcoming place for all.

We are always looking for volunteers, currently we would welcome members who may be able to help in the following areas: membership; arranging Child Protection & chaperoning for shows; and arranging First Aid training for the theatre. Please email info@stablestheatre.co.uk for more information.

This year would not have been the success it has been for the Stables had it not been for a dedicated group of volunteers, who, following all COVID guidelines and restrictions, have worked tirelessly at the Theatre. They know who they are and we give our grateful thanks.

We look forward to seeing you all soon.

VOLUNTEER?

STABLES THEATRE MEMBERSHIP

We are currently looking at ways in which we can develop the membership of the Stables Theatre.

The Council have commissioned a report, written by David Wells, which has highlighted a number of options and recommendations we would like to consider further.

We are looking for a group of three or four people to work with David and progress these ideas. Ideally we would be looking for the following people; a volunteer who regularly works at the theatre, an audience member who attends the theatre on a regular basis and an actor who takes an active role.

If you are interested in joining this group (it will be for a limited time period) please email info@stablestheatre.co.uk for more information or to register your interest.

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE PRODUCED?

THE PROGRAMME ADVISORY GROUP

The Programme Advisory Group (PAG) consists of ten members of the Theatre, including a Chair and the Chair of the Stables Council, who advises on the whole Theatre programme and sits in on all PAG meetings. We meet monthly at the Stables Theatre (usually the first Tuesday evening of each month) except under recent conditions when we have been having virtual meetings online. Our primary job is to read and select all the plays for production of the upcoming season at the Stables. It's a fun and rewarding task but it also takes considerable skills and experience to select the wide variety of plays needed, finding just the right mix of dramas, comedies, romances, classics, obscure masterpieces and brand new plays that could potentially make their World Première at the Stables. We also want to focus even more in the future on making sure that the subject matter is as diverse as possible.

In addition to this, the PAG is also responsible for choosing a Director for each production and overseeing that play from its selection to the end of the run.

We are currently looking for three new members to join the PAG. If you are a member of the Theatre, would be interested in joining us and feel that you have experience or expertise that is not already represented on PAG we would very much like to hear from you; please get in touch with PAG Chair Tim Kendrick at tim63@earthlink.net telling him what you feel you have to offer. All names will then be submitted to PAG, discussed and people with relevant experience will be invited to join.

We have been working hard during the "lock-down" preparing for re-opening and are now very much looking forward getting back to normal!

Harriet Davey

PRODUCTIONS IN THE PIPELINE

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED)

Coming to the Stables in July 2021 will be 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)' which was first taken to Edinburgh in the 1980s by the founders of The Reduced Shakespeare Company: Jess Winfield, Daniel Singer and Adam Long. This hilarious play covers all of Shakespeare's 37 plays in 97 minutes. Playing multiple roles Glen Marks, Tim Kendrick and Adam Smith will bring this laugh a minute treat to The Stables over the last two weekends of July.

Aisling Tigwell



March 2020 feels like a lifetime ago, pre lockdown 'Blue Stockings' was just about to go to onstage rehearsals, lines had been learnt and the set was about to be built. However, like many shows we were forced to postpone. So, here we are a year and half later and some of the original members of the cast have had to depart which means that we will be holding re-casting auditions on Sunday 6th June. Rehearsals will start again in earnest in August and the production is hoping to open again between 29th October and 6th November.

'Blue Stockings' is the debut play by Jessica Swale, the award-winning playwright of 'Nell Gwynn' (which was performed at the Stables in 2017). It tells the story of four young female undergraduate students and the staff at Girton College Cambridge and their fight to be allowed to graduate during the academic year of 1896. It is a powerful piece which explores issues surrounding gender inequality, the class divide and fighting the establishment. It is at times comedic and other times deeply moving. It trusts to be a real treat and will be the Stables first large cast (there's 17 people in it of a range of different ages) to return post-pandemic. I am so pleased to be able to direct this wonderful show once again and hopefully this time bring it to the Stables audiences.

Aisling Tigwell

OH NO IT ISN'T

Is it ever too early to mention a Christmas show? Oh no, it isn't!

OK - while the Stables festive offering for 2021 isn't a traditional pantomime, it'll still have all the magic and wonder a good Christmas show needs....and let's face it, after the time we've all had, we need a massive dose of magic and wonder! What's more magical and wonderful than the story of **THE SNOW QUEEN**?

And here's something even more special - this is a brand new stage version of the beloved Hans Christian Andersen tale, written especially for our beloved Stables Theatre.

I've always loved the story of The Snow Queen, and knew it would be a fantastic show for The Stables, with its mix of atmospheric settings and colourful characters; the only problem was, I couldn't find a script I loved enough! So who better to ask than my dear friend and wonderful playwright Michael Punter...who loved the idea. Mike's come up with the perfect 'Snow Queen' for our times, full of fantasy and magic, but also hope and forgiveness.

We have an amazing creative team; Dee Harvey set design, Gill Jenks costume, Dave Rowland sound, and Jonathan Richardson lighting, and not forgetting our top construction department led by Frank Jenks. They're all poised, excited, and ready to go!

Christmas is always a special time in the theatre, and this year is will be so much more significant, I do hope you'll come and be part of it. Actors' auditions will happen around mid-July, so look out for the notice in your in-box; also backstage, costume, builders, technical, operators, front of house - everyone who'd love to be a part of Stables' Christmas 2021 is hugely welcome. Contact jane@stablestheatre.co.uk if you'd like to know more.

Let's make this THE Christmas to remember for our wonderful Stables theatre.

Jane Richardson

MACBETH 4 to 12 February 2022

A production of 'Macbeth' directed by Frances Viner and produced by Andrew Bruce which will focus on how compliance enables corruption and violence.

Accompanied by live music and making full use of the Stables state of the art back projection to screen elements of the production live, this is a deep dive into the text and some elements of physical theatre. No prior knowledge of either required.

Familiarisation (at the Stables):

4 September 2.00 - 5.30 p.m,

Auditions (at the Stables):

18 & 19 September 2.00 - 5.30 p.m

Scripts available from Stables; £10 deposit

Frances Viner



STAGED READINGS FOR WINNING NEW PLAYS

The Stables Theatre is proud to announce that in August the three winning plays of the Stables 2020 New Play Writing Contest will each get a live Staged Reading. This will be a chance for you to hear actors, with scripts in hand, read these wonderful new plays from the Stables stage. The plays and dates/times are as follows:

The Seventh Swimmer

by Mo Hansch & Tony Voller; 21 August at 2:00 pm

In 1911 London, Robert McBride is the newly appointed Assistant Dean of the progressive Battersea Polytechnic and newly married to a beautiful Prussian aristocrat, Maya.

Life has endless possibilities, but when Robert becomes infatuated with one of his male students, Killian, his life is thrown into turmoil. When Maya's manipulative cousin, Otto, seeks to exploit the situation for his own advantage, he triggers a chain of devastating events which prove as fatal as England's descent to war.

First Bus to Ballinabeg

by Sean J Hume; 21 August at 7:30 pm

A black comedy about a young transvestite returning to the West of Ireland from London for the funeral of his dreadful father. Through his father's past we see how the shadows of Ireland's recent history linger on.

Against this dark background two lighter stories are revealed, one of redemption, and the other a love story, both interwoven amongst the biases of the past and the realities of the present.

Busted Flush

by Louise Cameron and Miranda Lapworth; 22 August at 2:00 pm

Laura holds all the good cards in life: the great husband, great kids, great job, great house, great friends, even a great if irritating mother. But she's about to be dealt a card that will bring everything crashing down. Gradually, she transforms into someone no-one recognises and finds herself on a painful path of destruction. Ignorant of the truth or how to get help, she is set to lose everyone around her.

A Q&A will follow each play reading, so that the playwrights get some feedback directly from you. Tickets are free, but must be booked in advance. (Each play reading must be booked separately). We look forward to seeing you there!

Tim Kendrick

NEW WRITING

Since the launch of our new writing competition two years ago, The Stables has recognised a need to further support writers and so we have created a more defined process for submitting plays to the theatre.

The Stables will now accept play submissions twice a year – in March and September. March submissions will be part of our on-going New Play Writing Competition. Any new play which has never been produced before, and meets our rules, is eligible.

And in September we will accept any play written by you and that meets our rules, even if the play has been performed previously.

Full rules are now available on our website. We believe this new process will make it more transparent for playwrights who want to get their work in front of an audience. We look forward to reading some amazing new scripts!

Neil Sellman



1066 YOUTH THEATRE

Directors:

Niall Whitehead, Barbara Ward-Whitehead

Performers' ages: 14-18

1066 is a unique acting company for 14-18 year olds. Based at the Stables Theatre in the heart of Hastings Old Town we offer a creative experience where you can learn new skills, develop theatre techniques and make new friends.

1066 Youth Theatre is run by Niall Whitehead (Head of Performing Arts, Ark Alexandra Academy) and Barbara Ward-Whitehead (Headspin Creative Learning) who are both professionally trained actors and educationalists.

Previous productions have included: Midsummer Night's Dream; Rat Tales; 1066: Three Kings; David Copperfield; Hollow.

This year's summer programme runs Monday 6th – Saturday 28th August (Sunday 22nd off).

Project Working Title: **VOYAGE**

Performances: Friday 27th (evening) and Saturday 28th August (matinee and evening)

Acting Audition: Tapes / workshops to be confirmed

Volunteers (DBS required) : Workshop leaders, backstage support, chaperones, costumes.

Be inspired, be challenged, be a team player, be part of something special. JOIN 1066 YOUTH THEATRE.

Further information from Barbara Ward-Whitehead, 1066youththeatre@gmail.com



WARDROBE

The Stables WARDROBE DEPARTMENT is located in a small storage on the ground floor of the theatre and, although the space is small, we have built up a good range of authentically styled costumes over the years.

When a play is cast, the director will inform me of their costume requirements, e.g. period, social status / job of character, time of day, season, plus any other special or unusual costume needs. Then I, or an appointed person, will start the process of selecting costume for each cast member. This can be sourced from the Stables store and altered to fit, made from scratch, borrowed from other amateur theatre groups, or even purchased from local charity shops; eBay is also a wonderful source of inspiration !

The department also offers a costume hiring facility for film and private hire and we occasionally sell surplus costume to specialist dealers, thus providing a useful income for further purchases.

Volunteers are always welcome to help out with productions, so please contact me if you are interested.

Gill Jenks

EXHIBITIONS AT THE STABLES ART GALLERY

(10:30 to 1:00, not Sundays)

Until June 26 2021: HALF CUT

Caroline Macey, local printmaker.

June 28 - September 4 2021: DETAIL & DESIGN

Mike Leale, botanical prints inspired by Victorian and Japanese art.

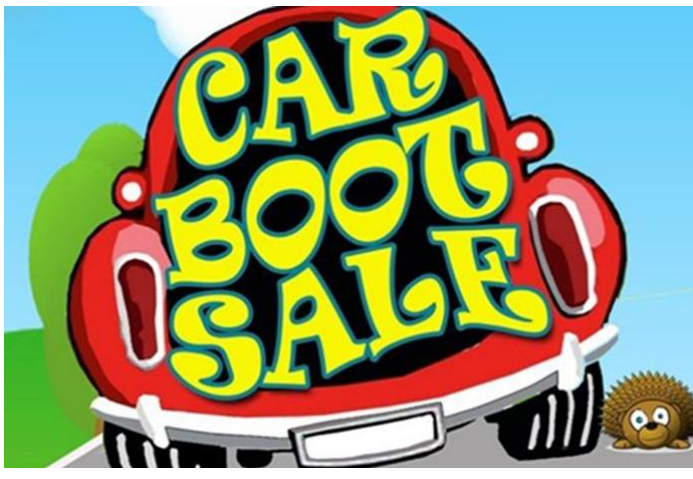
September 6 - November 6 2021 TIME AND TIDE,

Various local artists: a celebration of the seasons in and around Hastings.

How fantastic to see art on the walls of the Stables Gallery again! Theatre goers and callers-by during Box Office hours, are free to browse an exciting range of prints, paintings, small sculptures and collage by local artists in our lovely light gallery space throughout the year. Works are mostly for sale; and you can find unusual and original jewellery, small gifts and greetings cards too. Every sale helps towards the preservation of our historic Stables building in old Hastings.

Currently we are exhibiting work by award winning local printmaker Caroline Macey whose intricate prints are frequently also seen in the Royal Academy and other London print galleries. She is an elected member of the Royal Society of Printer Painters and her exhibition, which displays amazing detail and energy, is not to be missed. It runs until Saturday June 26th.

Yvonne Rees



BOOT SALE at the Stables Theatre

Sunday 27 June, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

£7 a pitch

Contact Anne Edwards, 01424 719779

LIVE THEATRE IS BACK!



June at the Stables

PROSCENIUM THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

A Kind of Alaska

A PLAY BY HAROLD PINTER

Fri 11 and Sat 12 June at 7.30pm

Tickets £13.50 (£8.50 members/concessions)



FIRST KNIGHT THEATRE PRESENTS

Happy Jack

A PLAY BY MICHAEL PUNTER

Tue 15 to Thu 17 June at 7.30pm

Tickets £13.50 (£8.50 members/concessions)



ROSIE ASHE PRESENTS

Call Me Merman

MUSIC DIRECTOR & ACCOMPANIST PAUL KNIGHT

Fri 18 June at 7.30pm · Sat 19 June at 2.20 & 7.30pm

Tickets £17.50 (£12.50 members/concessions)



FETCH PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS

Punched

A PLAY BY JOHN KNOWLES

Thu 24 to Sat 26 June at 7.30pm

Tickets £13.50 (£8.50 members/concessions)



Happenings

A DARK COMEDY BY JOHN BERRY

Tue 29 and Wed 30 June at 7.30pm

Tickets £13.50 (£8.50 members/concessions)



For the latest information, Covid compliance plan and seating arrangements visit www.stablestheatre.co.uk